ELECTION TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEES AND TO THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

President: Order. Order. The following are the results of the elections held yesterday :—

Public Accounts Committee:

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan secured 13 votes.
Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai secured 9 votes.
Mr. T. K. Kitten secured 2 votes.
Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan was elected as a member of the Committee.

The Standing Finance Committee:

Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail secured 16 votes.
Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi secured 10 votes.
Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail was elected as a member of the Committee.

The Board of Agriculture:

Mr. A. Eswara Pillai and Mrs. Abernam Gnanasikhamony each secured 13 votes. On casting lots Mrs. Gnanasikhamony was successful and was declared elected as a member of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

President: Order. Order. I have received notice of a motion for the adjournment of the House from Mr. James Fletcher which reads as follows :—

> "I beg leave to move for the adjournment of the House, to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the serious situation caused by various and contradictory rumours which are assiduously spread by the State Congress members and others regarding the extension of the life of the Legislatures."

I may say at once that Government have already taken steps to extend the life of the Legislatures until the 20th June 1942. It is too early now to come to any definite conclusion on the question of the date of the next elections. But I may mention at once that one reason why the political meetings were given the fullest liberty was in order to test how far these meetings could be conducted in peace and quiet. Obviously, in ordinary cases and under ordinary circumstances, Government, especially in junctures like this, will exercise certain powers to prevent any disturbances or any unrest or the rousing of feelings that may jeopardise the peace of the State. But such powers cannot, in the nature of things, be appropriately exercised in respect of election meetings. Once an election is ordered, then we cannot possibly stop election meetings on the ground that they might lead to difficulties. Such action is bound to be misunderstood. Therefore, Government are watching the situation carefully to see how far the existing political organisations

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[President.]

are able to conduct meetings without acerbity or disturbing the equilibrium of economically distressed communities or localities, or giving rise to difficult situations. If Government find that these organisations are unable to conduct meetings without the likelihood of producing deleterious results they could have no alternative but to postpone the elections further. It is hoped that such a contingency may be avoided by the discretion and prudence of political organisations of the country.

Mr. James Fletcher: I withdraw the motion, Sir.

MOTION RE RETIREMENT OF RAJYASEVAPRAVINA M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: Sir, I beg to move the following motion for the acceptance of the House :—

> "This Council wishes to place on record its high appreciation of the great qualities of head and heart possessed by its Leader, Rajyasevapravina M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar, B. A., B. L., Chief Secretary to Government, who is to retire shortly from service."

Sir, this is a period of separation so far as this House is concerned. We had to lose one member on the non-official side who has been entertained in Government service. And I expect that one or two more are also on their half way in that direction. From the treasury bench we have lost a Financial Secretary, I mean Mr. Sundararajan who has gone away on higher prospects elsewhere. Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao also a member of the treasury bench has retired. He was immensely liked by the non-officials of this House. To crown all, your pronouncement yesterday that the Leader of the House is also to retire very shortly was a surprise to us all. Mr. Nilakanta Aiyar deserves our appreciation considering his qualities and the long period of his meritorious services to the State and as leader of this House.

Sir, I have some advantage in some special respects to speak of Mr. Nilakanta Aiyar on this occasion. In the first place, Mr. Nilakanta Aiyar and myself belong to two different poles. God has favoured him with all material prosperity even in the matter of occupying one of the highest appointments in the State and God has favoured me with everything except material prosperity. (*Hear, Hear*). Sir, he is a conspicuous example of one who could rise to the topmost rung of the official ladder by perseverance, by steady devotion to his duty, his great loyalty to the Sovereign and by adopting strict principles of conduct in his work all along, though one may not possess extraordinary intelligence. I do not mean that he does not possess intelligence, but I should refer to the other qualities which have served him in good stead to occupy the place which he occupies to-day. I am also, Sir, a concrete example of the well-known maxim "A rolling stone gathers no mass." In that respect also—

President: Whether it gathers 'mass' or 'moss' !

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